

Four Mile Creek Greenway Corridor

Benefits of Greenways:

- Provide a safe opportunity for active transportation
- Improve health and fitness
- Improve air quality
- Support water quality
- Preserve plant and animal habitat
- Encourage a sense of community

As a joint venture between the Town of Matthews and Mecklenburg County, a preliminary alignment study has been completed for the Four Mile Creek Greenway Corridor from Johnston Rd. to Mecklenburg County Regional Sportsplex at Matthews. The total corridor length of the greenway is ~11 miles, including 4 miles of existing greenway. Future connections to other greenways, such as McAlpine/McMullen/Little Sugar Creek Greenways will allow residents to transverse through much of the County. Little Sugar Creek Greenway is part of the Cross Charlotte Trail, a 26 mile trail that will connect from the SC/NC State line to Cabarrus County in the future. The study takes into account site challenges, such as topography, future flood studies, wetlands, access and other factors that influence the preferred route. This greenway, because of its forested and riparian corridor, will likely be one of the most attractive amenities of the Mecklenburg County Greenway System.

How will a greenway affect my property value?

Greenways are amenities. Nationwide studies indicate parks, greenways, and trails increase the value of nearby properties by 5 to 20 percent. The Crosland Company in Charlotte surveyed 800 new and existing area homebuyers in 1993 and found they consider walking/biking paths an important amenity.

Are greenways safe?

A study conducted by UNC–Charlotte explored property crime rates on the entire Mecklenburg County greenway system between 2001 and 2003. The study compared crime rates found on properties next to greenways with general crime rates of the surrounding neighborhoods. Researchers found properties adjacent to greenways actually experienced lower crime rate in three of the four years surveyed. The study concluded greenways do not incur a greater risk of crime. Nationwide studies have found similar results.



Mecklenburg County Greenway System Quick Facts:

- The Mecklenburg County Greenway Master Plan calls for over 300 miles of greenway trail.
- There are currently approximately 50 miles of greenway completed and 40 miles queued for design and construction
- The Mallard Creek/ Clark's Creek/Toby Creek Greenway is currently the longest greenway trail completed, over 9 miles long.
- Park Rangers staff and CMPD patrol every County greenway.

WHY SHOULD I SUPPORT GREENWAY DEVELOPMENT?

Greenways can help improve the overall quality of life for Mecklenburg County residents. They provide active transportation to get to nearby schools, parks, shopping and other destinations. Greenways also provide a place to engage in physical fitness activities such as walking, running, biking, or rollerblading. They conserve open space and protect the floodplain, help improve air and water quality, preserve habitat for plants and animals, and offer residents a place to enjoy nature in all seasons. Using greenways promotes a strong sense of community and place.